



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kazuhisa KUNITAKE et al.

Group Art Unit: 3618

Application No.: 09/976,111

Examiner: J. Shriver II

Filed: October 15, 2001

Docket No.: 110497

For: FUEL REFORMING APPARATUS AND METHOD OF CONTROLLING SAME

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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**GROUP 3600**

In reply to the February 7, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-24 and 29-37, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

David J. Cho  
Registration No. 48,078

JAO:DXC/kys

Date: March 7, 2003

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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